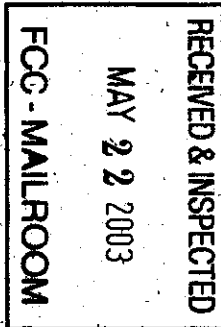




DULUTH
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



May 8, 2003

Marlene Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

WCDocket No. 03-90

Dear Marlene:

The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce supports competition as a means to spur innovation and profitability. Further, the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce believes the streamlining of regulations in Minnesota would allow for enhanced competition and investment in the widest variety of communication technologies.

Given these convictions, we support the entry of Qwest into the interLATA long distance business. Qwest's entrance into interLATA will better serve the public interest of our community and the State of Minnesota by increasing not only the level of long-distance competition, but also the amount of competition for other telecommunications services – resulting in cost savings to business and residential customers.

The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee became aware of Qwest's efforts to enter the interLATA long distance business. After an evaluation of this potential, the community empowered me to communicate the Committee's support for the initiative.

Specifically, we strongly encourage the FCC to act quickly in approving Qwest's application to provide interLATA long distance service in the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and needed initiative. Please contact me if I can provide you additional details related to our support for Qwest's request. I can be reached at 218-722-5501.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ross
President & CEO

cc: Senator Mark Dayton
Senator Norm Coleman
Congressman James Oberstar